

NEWSLETTER



ARBORETA & BOTANIC GARDENS

prepared by the public services division

November 10, 1974

ARBORETUM DIVISION

The Arboretum Division would like to welcome aboard new grounds maintenance workers Ed Brooks, Ed Valencia, and Joe Diaz. Also, Wayne Demmell who will be working part time, weekends and holidays. We wish also to welcome Nancy Brandt, ITC, the new secretary for John Provine.

In case you haven't already noticed, we have a beautiful addition to our entrance area. An appropriately natural-looking sign with embossed gold lettering reading: Los Angeles State and County Arboretum - Department of Arboreta and Botanic Gardens.

SOUTH COAST DIVISION

The rain and wind storm of October 28-29 claimed a number of trees here. Most noticeable is the loss of an acacia by the dawn redwood at the entrance.

November 9 is the date for the Foundation Box Social and Square Dance. This event is open to all and will begin at 6:30 p.m. Admission is a box lunch (decorated with flowers) for two for each lady and \$1 per person to help pay the caller. Mr. Bob McCamen, aide to Supervisor Hayes, will auction off the box lunches.

Charles Wenz (GMM) suffered heart irregularities early in October and is now recuperating at home. Don Madsen (GMM), injured in August in a motorcycle accident, has regained consciousness and his condition is slowly improving. Our best wishes to them both for complete recovery.

Four birds never before recorded at South Coast were observed here in October. They are: Lucy's Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Vesper Sparrow, and Common Gallinule. The Bobolinks sighted in September were also still here this month.

RESEARCH DIVISION

A recent product of our ongoing air pollution research program is a petunia variety which has exhibited considerable tolerance to smog. This variety of petunia is now named LASCA PINK PHOXTOL. Due to its high degree of smog tolerance, we were asked by seed companies to release the seed source so that they can use its germplasm for their breeding program to increase the smog tolerance in petunia hybrids. Steps are being taken to release seeds of LASCA PINK PHOXTOL to the public.

PUBLIC SERVICES DIVISION

Monthly birdwalks have started again at the Arboretum under the leadership of Ray Robinson. Ray reports that attendance is increasing; this month 32 people joined Ray in his walk which covers the lower pond/jungle, upper pond, and parts of Tallac Knoll. Some of the birds seen over the past month are: Green Herons, Common Egret, Black-crowned Night Heron, Red-shouldered Hawk, Sora Rails, Long-billed Marsh Wren and on our October birdwalk we released a Least Bittern.

Graphic artist Alan Lugena has completed the layout of the Oriental Vegetable brochure and Arbor Day packets and we will shortly start running them on our press operated these days by tour guides Ray Robinson and Glenn Dodd.

The Arboretum staff of the Public Services Division took turns a few weeks ago in trying to communicate with some non-English speaking visitors from the Soviet Union. Finally, they were given a tour of the grounds with Lee Enari doing his best to interpret. Three of the visitors were botanists, one from the Sochi Botanical Garden near the Black Sea.